

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising ornithine and/or one or more branched amino acids in a concentration effective for treating or preventing inflammatory disease.
2. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ornithine and/or branched amino acids are in the L-form.
3. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the branched amino acids are at selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine and valine.
4. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, which comprises ornithine and one or more branched amino acids.
5. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ornithine is an ornithine derivative which is a peptide comprising ornithine as the constitutive amino acid thereof.
6. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, which is in a form suitable for administration to a subject in need thereof.
7. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 6, wherein said form is a form suitable for oral administration.
8. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 6, wherein said form is a medicinal form.

9. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 8, wherein the medicinal form is a supplement or a transfusion.

10. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 6, wherein said form is a food or a drink.

11. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 10, wherein the food or drink is selected from the group consisting of a medical food, a health food, a specified health food, a medical drink, a health drink, and a specified health drink.

12. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ornithine and branched amino acids may be a free amino acids, a salts, or a derivatives that may be converted into a free amino acids *in vivo*.

13. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein said inflammatory disease is an arthritic disease.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for treating arthritis, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a composition consisting essentially of an effective amount of ornithine and at least one branched amino acid ~~to a subject in need thereof~~, wherein said at least one branched amino acid is a branched amino acid or a mixture of two or more branched amino acids and said branched amino acid is selected from the group consisting of (a) leucine, (b) leucine and valine, (c) leucine and isoleucine, (d) isoleucine, (e) isoleucine and valine, and (f) isoleucine, leucine, and valine.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the ornithine and at least one branched amino acid are in a form suitable for oral administration.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the ornithine and at least one branched amino acid are in a medicinal form.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the medicinal form is a supplement or a transfusion.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the ornithine and at least one branched amino acid are in a food or a drink.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the food or drink is selected from the group consisting of a medical food, a health food, a specified health food, a medical drink, a health drink, and a specified health drink.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the ornithine and branched amino acids may be a free amino acids, a salts, or a derivatives that may be converted into a free amino acids *in vivo*.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for depressing the progression of rheumatoid arthritis, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a composition consisting

essentially of an effective amount of ornithine and at least one branched amino acid ~~to a~~
~~subject in need thereof.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the ornithine and at least one branched amino acid are in a form suitable for oral administration.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the ornithine and at least one branched amino acid are in a medicinal form.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the medicinal form is a supplement or a transfusion.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the ornithine and at least one branched amino acid are in a food or a drink.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the food or drink is selected from the group consisting of a medical food, a health food, a specified health food, a medical drink, a health drink, and a specified health drink.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the ornithine and branched amino acids may be a free amino acids, a salts, or a derivatives that may be converted into a free amino acids *in vivo*.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one branched amino acid is L-isoleucine:L-leucine:L-valine with a ratio of 1:2:1.2.